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Personnel 11

Biographic Sketch

WALTER BEDELL SMITH, Director of Central Intelligence

Walter Bedell Smith was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, in 1895. He began his military career in 1910 as a private in the Indiana National Guard. By 1917, when he entered the Officers Training Camp at Fort Benjamin Harrison, he had advanced through the non-commissioned ranks to the grade of first sergeant. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Officers Reserve Corps in November 1917 and moved through the successive commissioned ranks to general, in the Army of the United States in July 1951. He received his commission in the regular Army as a first lieutenant of Infantry in September 1920. Upon graduation from Officers Training Camp in November of 1917 he was assigned to the 39th Infantry of the Fourth Division and served with this unit in France in 1918. Between the World Wars, General Smith's assignments included: Assistant Chief Coordinator and later Executive Officer and Deputy Chief Coordinator of Budget in the Bureau of the Budget. (1925-29); a two year tour with the 45th Infantry Regiment in the Philippines (1929-31); attending the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia, the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and the Army War College in Washington. D. C. (1931-39). Approximately three of the years during the period

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1931-39 were spent as a member of the staff and faculty of the Infantry School. In October 1939, General Smith was appointed to the War Department General Staff in Washington where he served first as Assistant Secretary and later as Secretary to the General Staff during the critical period between October 1939 and January 1942. In February 1942, he was appointed Secretary to the Combined Chiefs of Staff in Washington. In December 1942, General Smith was ordered to England as Chief of Staff for General Eisenhower who was at that time in command of all American forces in Europe. When SHAEF (Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces) was organized in January 1944, General Smith was appointed as the Chief of Staff of this Headquarters and remained in this capacity until the end of the war. On behalf of the Supreme Commander, he signed the instruments effecting the surrender of Italy and Germany. In February 1946, he was appointed Ambassador to the Soviet Union, remaining in a military status during this assignment. His resignation as Ambassador was accepted by the President on 25 March 1949. From April 1949 to October 1950, he served as Commanding General of the United States First Army with headquarters on Governors Island in New York City. In October 1950 General Smith was appointed by President Truman as Director of Central Intelligence and took the Oath of Office on October 7, 1950. General Smith's decorations include those awarded him by eleven foreign countries. He holds six honorary degrees from various colleges and universities. His book, My Three Years in Moscow, relates his experiences while serving as Ambassador to the Soviet Union.

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